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ABSTRACT

This report presents findings reported in the follow-up survey of Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) graduates of the class of 1997-98. Graduates were surveyed during the spring of 1999 to determine what jobs they had obtained, which schools they were attending, how much they earned, how satisfied they were with their employment or schooling, and what impact PVCC had upon their careers and education. Highlights include: (1) graduates were very satisfied with the quality of college services--an overwhelming majority of survey respondents (98%) were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services and their academic program at PVCC; (2) about half of all respondents (49%) were enrolled in a postsecondary institution at the time of the survey--most attended public (94%), four-year (81%) institutions located within the Commonwealth of Virginia (94%); (3) eight out of ten respondents felt that their bachelor's program was very much or somewhat related to their PVCC degree program; (4) about 53% of all enrolled respondents received assistance from PVCC in transferring to their current college; (5) three-quarters of the survey respondents (73%) were employed at the time of the survey, with two-thirds (68%) working full time; and (6) three-quarters (76%) indicated that their current jobs were related to their fields of study at PVCC. (JA)



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# Follow-up Survey of PVCC Graduates Class of 1997-98

*Research Report No. 5-2000*
*December 2000*

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# Follow-Up Survey of PVCC Graduates Of the Class of 1997-98

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**PVCC Research Report No. 5-2000**
**December 2000**

Office of Institutional Research
Piedmont Virginia Community College
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# Follow-Up Survey of PVCC Graduates
# Of the Class of 1997-98

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## Introduction

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) has conducted graduate surveys since 1974, when college officials asked members of the first graduating class to report on what happened to them after graduation. Throughout the years, the surveys have asked questions concerning jobs, career satisfaction, salaries, study at other colleges and universities, and the impact the college has had upon the lives of PVCC graduates. Information from graduation surveys is used to improve academic programs and college services.

This study presents the results of the 23rd graduate survey. The survey was conducted for graduates of the class of 1997-98, which includes students graduating from PVCC during Summer Term 1997, Fall Semester 1997, and Spring Semester 1998. The survey instrument was the same used for the graduating classes of 1995-96 and 1996-97 and is included in this study as Appendix A. In terms of format and content, this study is similar to previous graduate studies, except that discussion and analysis has been limited to one section titled "Findings."

Please note that presentation of survey results in the "Results" section of the study, which follows both the "Findings" and "Conclusion" sections, differs for each question depending upon the type of data obtained. Categorical listings, frequencies, and percentages are provided for nominal data; response frequencies, adjusted percentages, and histograms are provided for ordinal level data; and descriptive statistics, such as the mean, median, and mode, are provided for continuous data.

At the end of the survey, graduates were invited to offer comments or suggestions concerning any aspect of their PVCC experience. Graduates were specifically asked to comment on ways that the college could improve its curriculum and services. These comments are contained in Appendix B.

## Methodology

During the spring of 1999, the Office of Institutional Research mailed surveys and cover letters to the 248 graduates of the class of 1997-98. Surveys were mailed approximately seven months after graduation to allow time for the graduates to secure jobs or to enroll in colleges or universities. Those not responding to the initial mailing of the follow-up survey were contacted two additional times.

Of the 248 graduates, 112 returned completed surveys for a response rate of 45.2%. This is considerably better than the response rate of 32.1% for graduate respondents of the class of 1996-97, and the highest response rate since the class of 1993-94 (50.4%).

**Table 1: Sex of PVCC Graduates and Survey Respondents**

| | Graduates | | Respondents | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No* | *Pct* | *No* | *Pct* |
| Male | 86 | 34.7% | 34 | 30.4% |
| Female | 162 | 65.3% | 78 | 69.6% |

As can be seen in Tables 1 through 3, survey respondents of the class of 1997-98 were similar demographically to all 1997-98 graduates. Slightly over one-third of all graduates, and approximately 30% of all respondents, were male. The percentage of minority respondents

**Table 2: Race of PVCC Graduates and Survey Respondents**

| | Graduates | | Respondents | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No* | *Pct* | *No* | *Pct* |
| White | 216 | 87.1% | 99 | 88.4% |
| African-American | 22 | 8.9% | 10 | 8.9% |
| Other Race | 10 | 4.0% | 3 | 2.7% |

(11.6%) was only slightly lower than the percentage of minority graduates (12.9%), and the percentage of African-Americans in both groups was the same. In terms of

age, survey respondents were on average one year older, suggesting that younger graduates are less likely to complete surveys than older ones. The similarities in demographic characteristics,

**Table 3: Avg. Age of PVCC Graduates and Survey Respondents**

| | |
|---|---|
| Graduates | 30.7 |
| Respondents | 31.8 |

as well as the relatively high response rate, suggest that survey responses are representative of all graduates of the class of 1997-98.

## Findings

- Graduates were very satisfied with the quality of college services. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents (98.1%) were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services provided by PVCC.
- An overwhelming majority of respondents (98.2%) indicated that they were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of their academic program at PVCC.
- Graduates were pleased with the skills they developed while attending PVCC. Nearly one-half believed that their PVCC education had contributed "very much" to their ability to reason logically (49.6%), research a topic (48.7%), solve problems (47.3%), speak clearly and effectively (45.1%), understand and use computers (50.9%), understand and use math (45.9%), and write clearly and effectively (54.5%). Only a few of the remaining respondents believed that their PVCC education did not contribute at all to their ability to reason logically (3.5%), research a topic (3.5%), solve problems (1.8%), speak clearly and effectively (7.1%), understand and use computers (4.4%), understand and use math (4.5%), and write clearly and effectively (6.3%).

- Wage earnings were a primary source of financial support for 1997-98 graduates. Nearly nine out of ten respondents (86.1%) were employed while attending PVCC. Fewer than two out of ten respondents (19.5%) borrowed money to finance their PVCC education. A large number of respondents worked between 10 and 30 hours per week (44.5%), and 15.4% worked 40 or more hours.
- About half of all respondents (48.7%) were enrolled in a postsecondary institution at the time of the survey. Most attended public (93.6%), four-year (80.7%) institutions located within the Commonwealth of Virginia (93.8%). In fact, one-half of those attending postsecondary institutions chose to continue their education at The University of Virginia (n=39), James Madison University (n=28), Old Dominion University (n=21), or Mary Baldwin College (n=14). Thirty-one respondents indicated that they were continuing their education at PVCC.
- Eight out of ten respondents (80.4%) felt that their bachelor's program was very much or somewhat related to their PVCC degree program. The most popular fields of study were Finance and Accounting (10%), Nursing (8.3%), Psychology (8.3%), Business Administration (6.7%), and History (5%)
- Academically, 1998-99 graduates performed quite well at the postsecondary institutions to which they transferred. Enrolled respondents earned a mean grade point average of 3.27 at their respective colleges. The average number of credit hours earned was 29.
- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC. Most respondents (85.5%) believed that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as students who enrolled at transfer institutions as freshmen. More than eight out of ten respondents (88.3%) felt that the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

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- Graduates were satisfied with the transfer process. Nearly nine out of ten enrolled respondents (87.8%) indicated that the credits they earned at PVCC transferred as expected. Nearly all respondents (91.3%) indicated that the institution to which they transferred was their first choice. Most (82.9%) who transferred to public four-year colleges in Virginia were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the transfer process.
- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the quality of transfer assistance received at PVCC. More than half of all enrolled respondents (53.1%) received assistance from PVCC in transferring to their current college. Of those who received assistance, more than eight out of ten rated the quality of assistance they received from academic advisors (89.3%), their academic programs (88.9%), and faculty (92.3%) as either excellent or good.
- Three-quarters of the survey respondents (73%) were employed at the time of the survey. Two-thirds (67.9%) worked full time. Three-quarters (76.3%) indicated that their current jobs were related to their fields of study at PVCC.
- Graduates were employed in a wide range of occupations. The most frequently cited positions were Registered Nurse (26.8%), secretarial positions (12.2%), police or corrections officers (6.1%), and accounting positions (4.9%). Nearly nine out of ten survey respondents (86.6%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with their current jobs, and six out of ten (60.8%) planned to pursue their current jobs as long-range careers.
- For the most part, 1997-98 graduates felt that PVCC provided them with the tools necessary to be effective in the workplace. All respondents felt that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as others beginning careers in their job field. Nine out of ten respondents (89.4%) indicated that the academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

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- Attending PVCC had a positive impact on the job prospects and earnings of many 1997-98 graduates. All respondents felt that their degree from PVCC helped them to obtain their current job, and over one-fifth (21.8%) believed that their degree helped them to obtain a promotion in their current job. The average annual salary earned by employed respondents was $26,616. On average, respondents estimated that their salaries would have been $5,906 lower if they had not attended PVCC.

## Conclusions

Information provided by 1997-98 graduate survey respondents was similar to that provided by graduates from previous classes. Typically, most graduates are employed in jobs related to their study at PVCC or enrolled in four-year colleges or universities. While survey respondents each year offer many helpful suggestions to improve academic programs and college services, most are pleased with the education they receive at PVCC. Respondents from the graduating class of 1997-98 were no exception. As one noted,

> Piedmont was the key that unlocked the door to my future. I enjoyed every aspect at the college, but the staff and faculty were unsurpassed. You all helped my dreams come true. Thanks.

# Survey Results

**1. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following college services provided by PVCC?**

**a. Career services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 23 | 19.7 | ******** |
| Somewhat | 30 | 25.6 | ********** |
| Very little | 9 | 7.7 | *** |
| Not at all | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| Not applicable | 49 | 41.9 | ****************** |
| No response | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**b. Computing Lab**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 51 | 43.6 | ****************** |
| Somewhat | 44 | 37.6 | **************** |
| Very little | 9 | 7.7 | *** |
| Not at all | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Not applicable | 9 | 7.7 | *** |
| No response | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**c Financial aid**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 38 | 32.5 | ************** |
| Somewhat | 19 | 16.2 | ****** |
| Very little | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| Not at all | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| Not applicable | 42 | 35.9 | *************** |
| No response | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**d Learning Center**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 57 | 48.7 | ******************** |
| Somewhat | 31 | 26.5 | ********** |
| Very little | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| Not at all | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| Not applicable | 21 | 17.9 | ******* |
| No response | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**e Library services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 74 | 63.2 | ************************** |
| Somewhat | 33 | 28.2 | ********** |
| Very little | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

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**f. Personal counseling**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 45 | 38.5 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 31 | 26.5 | ****** |
| Very little | 16 | 13.7 | *** |
| Not at all | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| Not applicable | 18 | 15.4 | **** |
| No response | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**g. Registration services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 57 | 48.7 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 51 | 43.6 | ********** |
| Very little | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| Not at all | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Not applicable | 1 | 0.9 | |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**h. Student activities**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 17 | 14.5 | **** |
| Somewhat | 40 | 34.2 | ********** |
| Very little | 17 | 14.5 | **** |
| Not at all | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Not applicable | 37 | 31.6 | ********** |
| No response | 5 | 4.3 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**2 Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of college services provided by PVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 70 | 59.8 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 38 | 32.5 | ********** |
| Very little | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Not at all | 1 | 0.9 | |
| No response | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**3 To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following aspects of your academic program?**

**a Academic advising**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 57 | 48.7 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 45 | 38.5 | ********** |
| Very little | 10 | 8.5 | *** |
| Not at all | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| No response | 1 | 0.9 | |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

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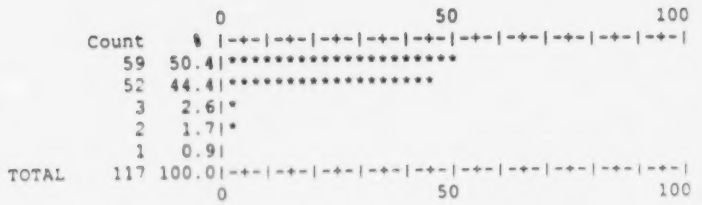
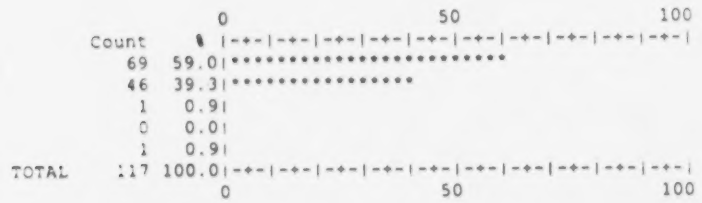
**b. Course availability**



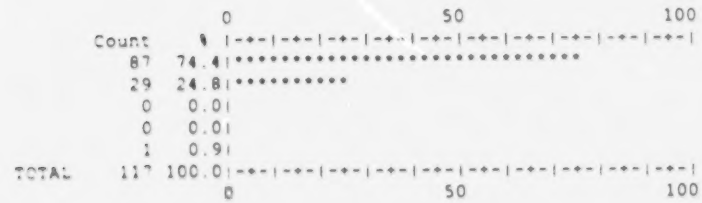
| | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| Very much | 59 | 50.4 |
| Somewhat | 52 | 44.4 |
| Very little | 3 | 2.6 |
| Not at all | 2 | 1.7 |
| No response | 1 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 |

**c. Course materials**



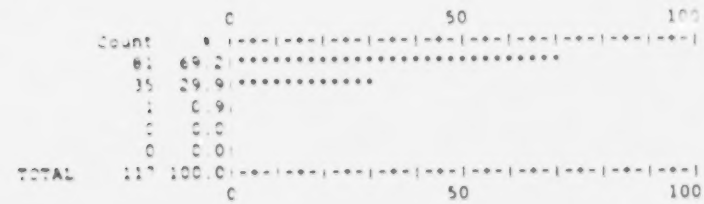
| | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| Very much | 69 | 59.0 |
| Somewhat | 46 | 39.3 |
| Very little | 1 | 0.9 |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 |
| No response | 1 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 |

**d. Faculty**



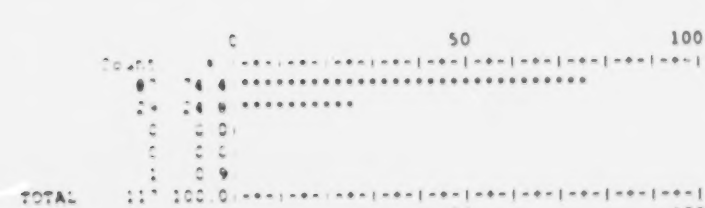
| | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| Very much | 87 | 74.4 |
| Somewhat | 29 | 24.8 |
| Very little | 0 | 0.0 |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 |
| No response | 1 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 |

**e. Grading**



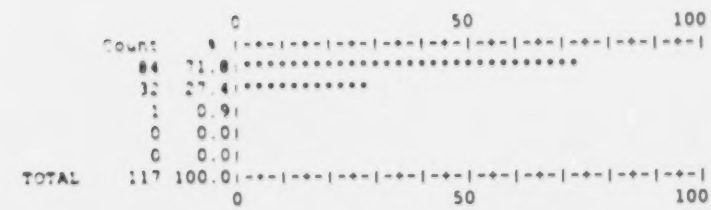
| | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| Very much | 81 | 69.2 |
| Somewhat | 35 | 29.9 |
| Very little | 1 | 0.9 |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 |

**f. Instruction**



| | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| Very much | 87 | 74.4 |
| Somewhat | 29 | 24.8 |
| Very little | 0 | 0.0 |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 |
| No response | 1 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 |

**g. Learning environment**



| | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| Very much | 84 | 71.8 |
| Somewhat | 32 | 27.4 |
| Very little | 1 | 0.9 |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 |



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4. To what extent were you satisfied with your relationship with faculty outside of class?

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 68 | 58.1 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 36 | 30.8 | ********** |
| Very little | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| Not at all | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| No response | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

5. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of your academic program at FVCC?

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 78 | 66.7 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 32 | 27.4 | ********** |
| Very little | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not at all | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| No response | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

6. To what extent did your FVCC education contribute to your ability to:

a Reason logically

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 56 | 47.9 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 54 | 46.2 | ********** |
| Very little | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| Not at all | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| No response | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

b Research a topic

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 51 | 43.6 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 46 | 39.3 | ********** |
| Very little | 11 | 9.4 | **** |
| Not at all | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| No response | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

c Solve problems

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 51 | 43.6 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 54 | 46.2 | ********** |
| Very little | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| Not at all | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| No response | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

d. Speak clearly & effectively

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 51 | 43.6 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 43 | 36.8 | ********** |
| Very little | 11 | 9.4 | **** |
| Not at all | 8 | 6.8 | *** |
| No response | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

e. Understand & use comput[illegible]

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 58 | 49.6 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 44 | 37.6 | ********** |
| Very little | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| Not at all | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

f. Understand & use math

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 51 | 43.6 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 45 | 38.5 | ********** |
| Very little | 10 | 8.5 | *** |
| Not at all | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

g. Write clearly & effectively

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 61 | 52.1 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 37 | 31.6 | ********** |
| Very little | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| Not at all | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| No response | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

7. To what extent did your FVCC education prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g., make you better informed about your community and the political process)?

| | Count | % | 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 40 | 34.2 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 49 | 41.9 | ********** |
| Very little | 16 | 13.7 | ********** |
| Not at all | 12 | 10.3 | **** |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

8. Were you employed while attending FVCC?

| | Count | % | 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 99 | 84.6 | ********** |
| No | 16 | 13.7 | ***** |
| No response | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

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**9. If yes, how many hours per week on average did you work?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 to 10 hours | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| 11 to 20 hours | 29 | 24.8 | ********** |
| 21 to 30 hours | 23 | 19.7 | ******** |
| 31 to 40 hours | 21 | 17.9 | ******** |
| 41 to 50 hours | 13 | 11.1 | **** |
| Over 50 hours | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 20 | 17.1 | ******* |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**10. Did you borrow money to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses while attending FVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 22 | 18.8 | ******** |
| No | 91 | 77.8 | ********** |
| No response | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**11. If yes, how much did you borrow?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| $ 1 - $1,000 | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| $1,001 - $2,000 | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| $2,001 - $3,000 | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| $3,001 - $4,000 | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| $4,001 - $5,000 | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| Over $5,000 | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| No response | 97 | 82.9 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

***Section II Further Education***

**1 Are you currently enrolled in college?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 57 | 48.7 | ********** |
| No | 60 | 51.3 | ********** |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**2 If not, do you have plans to enroll during the coming year?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 21 | 17.9 | ******* |
| No | 36 | 30.8 | ********** |
| No response | 60 | 51.3 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |



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**3. Are you attending college full-time or part-time?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 42 | 35.9 | ********** |
| Part-time | 14 | 12.0 | ***** |
| No response | 61 | 52.1 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**4. What type of college are you attending?**

**a. Two-year or four-year?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2-year | 11 | 9.4 | **** |
| 4-year | 46 | 39.3 | ********** |
| No response | 60 | 51.3 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**b. Public or private?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public | 44 | 37.6 | ********** |
| Private | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| No response | 70 | 59.8 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**c In-state or out-of-state?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| In-state | 45 | 38.5 | ********** |
| Out-of-state | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| No response | 69 | 59.0 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**5 What college are you attending?** *(see individual surveys)*

**6 Are you currently pursuing a bachelor's degree?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 50 | 42.7 | ********** |
| No | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| No response | 61 | 52.1 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**7 If not, what is your primary purpose for attending college?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Personal interest | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Professional development | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| Pursue a graduate degree | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| Satisfy a work requirement | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Other | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 106 | 90.6 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**8. What is your major field of study?** *(see individual surveys)*



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**9. How many credit hours have you earned at your new college?**

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Credit Hours | 27.2791 | 17.8009 | 316.873 | 2.71461 | 65.2549 |

| Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3.00000 | 75.00000 | 72.00000 | 1173.00 |

| Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|
| 28.0000 | 15.00000 | 0.832489 | 2.96788 |

**10. What is your current grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)?**

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade Point Avg. | 3.27471 | 0.481075 | 0.231433 | 0.0694372 | 14.6906 |

| Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2.40000 | 4.00000 | 1.60000 | 157.186 |

| Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3.27000 | 3.20000 | -0.189964 | 1.85571 |

**11. To what extent is your bachelor's degree related to your PVCC degree program?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 28 | 23.9 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 13 | 11.1 | **** |
| Very little | 9 | 7.7 | *** |
| Not at all | 1 | 0.9 | |
| No response | 66 | 56.4 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**12. To what extent did your PVCC degree program prepare you academically for the bachelor's program?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 26 | 22.2 | ********* |
| Somewhat | 18 | 15.4 | ******* |
| Very little | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| Not at all | 1 | 0.9 | |
| No response | 66 | 56.4 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**13. Compared to students who started at your new school as freshman, do you feel:**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Better prepared | 20 | 17.1 | ******* |
| About as well prepared | 21 | 17.9 | ******* |
| Less well prepared | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| No response | 69 | 59.0 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**14. In relation to your current studies, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 19 | 16.2 | ****** |
| Good | 26 | 22.2 | ********* |
| Fair | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| Poor | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| No response | 66 | 56.4 | ********************** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**15. For each of the following aspects of college environment, please indicate whether PVCC has more, less, or about the same of a given aspect as your current college.**

**a. Degree of student competitiveness**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 8 | 6.8 | *** |
| About the same | 19 | 16.2 | ****** |
| PVCC has less | 24 | 20.5 | ******** |
| No response | 66 | 56.4 | ********************** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**b. Friendliness of faculty and staff**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 20 | 17.1 | ******* |
| About the same | 27 | 23.1 | ********* |
| PVCC has less | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 65 | 55.6 | ********************** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**c. Individual attention shown to students**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 27 | 23.1 | ********* |
| About the same | 21 | 17.9 | ******* |
| PVCC has less | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| No response | 65 | 55.6 | ********************** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**d. Quality of instruction**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 7 | 6.0 | *** |
| About the same | 35 | 29.9 | ********** |
| PVCC has less | 6 | 5.1 | ** |
| No response | 66 | 56.4 | ********************** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**e. Strictness of grading practices**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| About the same | 31 | 26.5 | ********** |
| PVCC has less | 19 | 16.2 | ****** |
| No response | 65 | 55.6 | ********************** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

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16. Did the credits you earned at PVCC transfer as you expected they would?

| | Count | % | 0 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 50 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 43 | 36.8 | \|********** |
| No | 6 | 5.1 | \|** |
| No response | 68 | 58.1 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| |
| | | | 0 50 100 |

17. How many credits, if any, were not accepted by your current college?

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Credits not Accept | 19.8824 | 23.2053 | 538.485 | 5.62811 | 116.713 |

| Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.00000 | 66.00000 | 65.00000 | 338.000 |

| Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9.00000 | 3.00000 | 1.13888 | 2.68934 |

18. Which courses were not accepted? *(see individual surveys)*

19. Was the college to which you transferred your:

| | Count | % | 0 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 50 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| First choice | 42 | 35.9 | \|********** |
| Second choice | 3 | 2.6 | \|* |
| Third choice | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| None of the above | 2 | 1.7 | \|* |
| No response | 70 | 59.8 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| |
| | | | 0 50 100 |

20 If you transferred to a public 4-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?

| | Count | % | 0 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 50 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 31 | 26.5 | \|******* |
| Somewhat | 18 | 15.4 | \|**** |
| Very little | 4 | 3.4 | \|* |
| Not at all | 2 | 1.7 | \|* |
| No response | 62 | 53.0 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| |
| | | | 0 50 100 |

21 Did you receive assistance from PVCC in transferring to your current college?

| | Count | % | 0 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 50 \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 34 | 29.1 | \|******** |
| No | 21 | 17.9 | \|******** |
| No response | 62 | 53.0 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | \|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\|-+-\| |
| | | | 0 50 100 |

**22. If yes, please rate the quality of assistance you received from each of the following sources:**

**a. Academic advising**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 20 | 17.1 | ******* |
| Good | 5 | 4.3 | ** |
| Fair | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Poor | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Not applicable | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| No response | 89 | 76.1 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**b. Academic program**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 15 | 12.8 | ***** |
| Good | 9 | 7.7 | *** |
| Fair | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Poor | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Not applicable | 1 | 0.9 | |
| No response | 90 | 76.9 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**c. Faculty**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 16 | 13.7 | ***** |
| Good | 8 | 6.8 | *** |
| Fair | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Poor | 2 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| No response | 91 | 77.8 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

***Section III Employment***

**1. Are you currently employed?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 77 | 65.8 | ********** |
| No | 27 | 23.1 | ********* |
| No response | 13 | 11.1 | **** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**2. If not, are you seeking employment?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 11 | 11.0 | **** |
| No | 22 | 18.8 | ******** |
| No response | 81 | 70.2 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

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**3. Are you employed full-time or part-time?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 55 | 47.0 | ********** |
| Part-time | 26 | 22.2 | ***** |
| No response | 36 | 30.8 | ******* |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**4. On average, how many hours per week do you work?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 to 10 hours | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| 11 to 20 hours | 11 | 9.4 | ** |
| 21 to 30 hours | 8 | 6.8 | ** |
| 31 to 40 hours | 33 | 28.2 | ****** |
| 41 to 50 hours | 22 | 18.8 | **** |
| Over 50 hours | 6 | 5.1 | * |
| No response | 34 | 29.1 | ****** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**5. What is your occupation?** *(see individual surveys)*

**6. Which of the following occupational groups best describes the type of work you do?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Administrative support | 15 | 12.8 | ** |
| Agriculture Forestry/Fishing | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Executive Administrator/Mgr. | 6 | 5.1 | * |
| Marketing/Sales | 4 | 3.4 | * |
| Operators Fabricators/Laborers | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Precision Production Craft | 1 | 0.9 | |
| Professional specialty worker | 35 | 29.9 | ****** |
| Service workers | 5 | 4.3 | * |
| Technicians | 7 | 6.0 | * |
| No response | 41 | 35.0 | ******* |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**7. To what extent is your FVCC degree program related to your current occupation?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 65 | 39.5 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 18 | 11.7 | ** |
| Very little | 11 | 9.4 | * |
| Not at all | 6 | 5.1 | * |
| No response | 17 | 14.5 | ****** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**8. To what extent do skills acquired in your FVCC degree program help you perform in the workplace?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 41 | 35.0 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 25 | 21.4 | ***** |
| Very little | 8 | 6.8 | * |
| Not at all | 8 | 6.8 | * |
| No response | 34 | 29.1 | ****** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

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**9. Compared to other employees beginning their careers in your job field, do you feel:**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Better prepared | 43 | 36.8 | ********** |
| About as well prepared | 34 | 29.1 | ********** |
| Less well prepared | 0 | 0.0 | |
| No response | 40 | 34.2 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**10. In relation to your present job, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 29 | 24.8 | ********** |
| Good | 38 | 32.5 | ********** |
| Fair | 7 | 6.0 | ** |
| Poor | 1 | 0.9 | |
| No response | 42 | 35.9 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**11. Who is your employer?** *(see individual surveys)*

**12. May we contact your employer to conduct an employer follow-up survey?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 48 | 41.0 | ********** |
| No | 30 | 25.6 | ********** |
| No response | 39 | 33.3 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**13. What is your exact job title?** *(see individual surveys)*

**14. Would you say that your job is**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very satisfying | 30 | 25.6 | ********** |
| Satisfying | 41 | 35.0 | ********** |
| Not very satisfying | 9 | 7.7 | *** |
| Unsatisfying | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| No response | 35 | 29.9 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**15. Do you intend to pursue your current job as a long-term career?**

| | Count | % | 0 ... 50 ... 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 48 | 41.0 | ********** |
| No | 31 | 26.5 | ********** |
| No response | 38 | 32.5 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

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**16. When did you obtain your current job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Before attending PVCC | 21 | 17.9 | ******* |
| While attending PVCC | 24 | 20.5 | ******** |
| After attending PVCC | 36 | 30.8 | ********** |
| No response | 36 | 30.8 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**17. Did your degree from PVCC help you obtain your present job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 43 | 36.8 | ********** |
| No | 34 | 29.1 | ********** |
| No response | 40 | 34.2 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**18. Has your degree helped you obtain a promotion in your present job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 17 | 14.5 | ****** |
| No | 61 | 52.1 | ********** |
| No response | 39 | 33.3 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**19. Did you participate in PVCC's Co-op program?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 15 | 12.8 | ***** |
| No | 65 | 55.6 | ********** |
| No response | 37 | 31.6 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**20. Did you receive career placement assistance from PVCC in obtaining your present job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| No | 75 | 64.1 | ********** |
| No response | 39 | 33.3 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**21. If yes, please rate the quality of career placement assistance you received from each of the following sources:**

**a. Academic program**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Good | 2 | 1.7 | * |
| Fair | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 3 | 2.6 | * |
| No response | 112 | 95.7 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**b. Career services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| Good | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| Fair | 1 | 0.9 | \| |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| Not applicable | 4 | 3.4 | \|* |
| No response | 112 | 95.7 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**c. Co-op program**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| Good | 1 | 0.9 | \| |
| Fair | 1 | 0.9 | \| |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| Not applicable | 3 | 2.6 | \|* |
| No response | 112 | 95.7 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**d. Faculty**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 3 | 2.6 | \|* |
| Good | 1 | 0.9 | \| |
| Fair | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | \| |
| Not applicable | 1 | 0.9 | \| |
| No response | 112 | 95.7 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 117 | 100.0 | |

**22 What is your annual salary?**

| Variable | Mean | Std Dev | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Salary | 24619.5 | 9490.26 | 90064959 | 1205.26 | 35.6569 |

| Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4000.00000 | 43680.00000 | 39680.00000 | 1650161.00 |

| Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20000.0 | 30000.00000 | +0.641100 | 3.03658 |

**23 What would you estimate your annual salary to be if you had not attended PVCC?**

| Variable | Mean | Std Dev | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated Salary | 20709.6 | 9226.50 | 85128382 | 1375.41 | 44.5519 |

| Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4000.00000 | 43680.00000 | 39680.00000 | 931930.00 |

| Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20000.0 | 20000.00000 | 0.385874 | 3.02462 |

***Section IV Comments & Suggestions** (see individual surveys)*

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## Appendix A: Survey Instrument

**Piedmont Virginia Community College**
**Follow-up Survey of Graduates for the Class of 1996-97**

*Instructions* Please check the appropriate box(es) for each question and answer all questions that apply to you. This information will be treated as strictly confidential with answers being combined for group analysis.

Graduate: *[Graduate Name]* Student ID: *[Graduate SSN]*

***Section I: PVCC Experience***

1. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following college services provided by PVCC?

| | Very much | Somewhat | Very little | Not at all | Not applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Career services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Computing Lab | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Financial aid | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Learning Center | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Library services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Personal counseling | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Registration services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Student activities | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

2. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of college services provided by PVCC?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

3. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following aspects of your academic program?

| | Very much | Somewhat | Very little | Not at all |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academic advising | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Course availability | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Course materials | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Faculty | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Grading | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Instruction | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Learning environment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

4. To what extent were you satisfied with your relationship with faculty outside of class?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

5. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of your academic program at PVCC?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

6. To what extent did your PVCC education contribute to your ability to

| | Very much | Somewhat | Very little | Not at all |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reason logically | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Research a topic | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Solve problems | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Speak clearly & effectively | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Understand & use computers | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Understand & use math | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Write clearly & effectively | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

7. To what extent did your PVCC education prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g., make you better informed about your community and the political process)?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

*(Continued on back)*

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8. Were you employed while attending PVCC? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. If yes, how many hours per week on average did you work?
☐ 1 to 10 hours ☐ 31 to 40 hours
☐ 11 to 20 hours ☐ 41 to 50 hours
☐ 21 to 30 hours ☐ Over 50 hours

10. Did you borrow money to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses while attending PVCC?
☐ Yes ☐ No

11. If yes, how much did you borrow?
☐ $ 1 - $1,000 ☐ $3,001 - $4,000
☐ $1,001 - $2,000 ☐ $4,001 - $5,000
☐ $2,001 - $3,000 ☐ Over $5,000

*Section II: Further Education*

1. Are you currently enrolled in college? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If not, do you have plans to enroll during the coming year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

***(If not currently enrolled in college, skip to Section III: Employment)***

3. Are you attending college full-time or part-time? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

4. What type of college are you attending? ***(Please check one from each column)***
☐ 2-year ☐ Public ☐ In-state
☐ 4-year ☐ Private ☐ Out-of-state
☐ Other _____
*(Please list)*

5. What college are you attending? _____

6. Are you currently pursuing a bachelor's degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. If not, what is your primary purpose for attending college?
☐ Personal interest
☐ Professional development
☐ Pursue a graduate degree
☐ Satisfy a work requirement
☐ Other _____
*(Please list)*

***(If not currently pursuing a bachelor's degree, skip to Section III: Employment)***

8. What is your major field of study? _____

9. How many credit hours have you earned at your new college? _____

10. What is your current grade point average (on a 4 0 scale)? _____

11. To what extent is your bachelor's degree related to your PVCC degree program?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

12. To what extent did your PVCC degree program prepare you academically for the bachelor's program?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

13. Compared to students who started at your new school as freshmen, do you feel:
☐ Better prepared ☐ About as well prepared ☐ Less well prepared

14. In relation to your current studies, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

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15. For each of the following aspects of college environment, please indicate whether PVCC has more, less, or about the same of a given aspect as your current college.

| | PVCC has more | About the same | PVCC has less |
|---|---|---|---|
| Degree of student competitiveness | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Friendliness of faculty and staff | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Individual attention shown to students | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Quality of instruction | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Strictness of grading practices | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

16. Did the credits you earned at PVCC transfer as you expected they would? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. How many credits, if any, were not accepted by your current college?_____

18. Which courses were not accepted? _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

19. Was the college to which you transferred your ☐ First choice ☐ Third choice ☐ Second choice ☐ None of the above

20. If you transferred to a public 4-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

21. Did you receive assistance from PVCC in transferring to your current college? ☐ Yes ☐ No

22. If yes, please rate the quality of assistance you received from each of the following sources.

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academic advising | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Academic program | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Faculty | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

*Section III: Employment*

1. Are you currently employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If not, are you seeking employment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

***(If not currently employed, please skip to Section IV: Comments & Suggestions)***

3. Are you employed full-time or part-time? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

4. On average, how many hours per week do you work? ☐ 1 to 10 hours ☐ 11 to 20 hours ☐ 21 to 30 hours ☐ 31 to 40 hours ☐ 41 to 50 hours ☐ Over 50 hours

5. What is your current occupation? _____

6. Which of the following occupational groups best describes the type of work you do?

☐ Administrative support ☐ Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing ☐ Executive/Administrator/Manager ☐ Marketing/Sales ☐ Operators/Fabricators/Laborers ☐ Precision/Production/Craft/Repair ☐ Professional specialty workers ☐ Service workers ☐ Technicians

7. To what extent is your PVCC degree program related to your current occupation?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

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8. To what extent do skills acquired in your PVCC degree program help you perform in the workplace?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

9. Compared to other employees beginning their careers in your job field, do you feel:
☐ Better prepared ☐ About as well prepared ☐ Less well prepared

10. In relation to your present job, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

11. Who is your employer? _____

12. May we contact your employer to conduct an employer follow-up survey? ☐ Yes ☐ No

***(If yes, please remember to complete, sign, and return the enclosed Contact Authorization Form)***

13. What is your exact job title? _____

14. Would you say that your job is
☐ Very Satisfying ☐ Satisfying ☐ Not very satisfying ☐ Unsatisfying

15. Do you intend to pursue your current job as a long-term career? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16. When did you obtain your current job?
☐ Before attending PVCC ☐ While attending PVCC ☐ After attending PVCC

17. Did your degree from PVCC help you obtain your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

18. Has your degree helped you obtain a promotion in your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

19. Did you participate in PVCC's Co-op program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

20. Did you receive career placement assistance from PVCC in obtaining your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

21. If yes, please rate the quality of career placement assistance you received from each of the following sources

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academic program | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Career services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Co-op program | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Faculty | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

22. What is your annual salary?_____

23. What would you estimate your annual salary to be if you had not attended PVCC?_____

***Section IV: Comments & Suggestions***

In the space provided, please express comments or suggestions concerning any aspect of your PVCC experience. We are particularly interested in how we can improve our curriculum and services. Thank you for your participation.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



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## Appendix B: Graduate Comments

Curriculum: Books are too expensive. Not enough choices of classes. Services: I think services are fine.

---

The program at PVCC was not related to my job at all. I went into this program in order to market, buy, and sell real estate on my own. I invest in R/E and then resale. My employer wouldn't care if I had a four year degree. My salary would not change at all. Maybe you should call or write Louisa County. I feel that the two degrees that I have are of *no* value to the county. Even though my first degree is in Police Science.
Please write Louisa County - Career Advancement.

---

Because I'm a foreign student, the help I received was very poor. Registration people were not very cooperative and thought that I would understand everything. The most saddest thing is that I did not go to graduation because they didn't notify me that I had to fill out a piece of paper so no hat and audience for me. I received my certificate in the mail.

---

Please consider making nursing courses more flexible (more night courses) for people who have to work full time and not lucky enough to have a flexible employer as I had. As for the faculty (nursing) in the years 96-98—the best. Keep them if you can!

---

There are two areas at PVCC which need improvement. Registration is the most frustrating event. Trying to get my address changed is the other. Please help me in this aspect. I have sent numerous change of address forms. Thank you.

---

One of my favorite things about PVCC is that they create open forum through the discussions with panels that are held in the lounge. You could catch some thought provoking conversation between classes. PVCC has an open mind—keep it that way!

---

I have been through many interviews with no success. I did not get hired for two of the positions I interviewed for because they felt the Associate of Accounting did not quality me for these positions. Why do more businesses in this community have more respect for a Certificate of Accounting than they do for an Associate of Accounting?

---

I am content at my current job. However, it's not what I want to do the rest of my life. PVCC did give me the skills to do what I'm doing but I graduated w/architecture specialization; I'd like to be closer to that field.



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The Learning Center and Advising/Counseling office were especially helpful. Also the quality of education was excellent. I felt well prepared at [four-year institution]. My standards as a student were higher than others who had been there the first two years. I recommend PVCC to everyone I know.

---

Offer more evening classes with more than one night to choose from.

---

I was a student at PVCC for six years, working towards my degree. (We have six children, four of whom were born while I was attending PVCC ). The college was totally supportive and understanding of my unique situation. Thanks, PVCC.

---

PVCC has a homelike atmosphere that I don't have at [four-year institution]. I feel like a number and I miss not talking to [PVCC counselor] in advising about my classes. Going to PVCC and receiving my two-year degree was the smartest thing I've done because of the transferring allowed my first two years waived. Overall, I'm very satisfied with my PVCC experience.

---

My main concern was the time of the classes, 7-10; 5:30-9:30 or 6-9 would be a lot better. By 9-9:30 students were worn out and a lot of teachers let us go home anyway. Not a lot of variety in class selections. A lot of the business classes overlapped in the curriculum.

---

Give [PVCC Faculty member] anything he needs Have all of the [PVCC Faculty member] you can.

---

Evaluate effectiveness of clinical areas OB Peds could provide a stronger exposure to students wishing to specialize in these areas Tests are always an issue—rethink policy of "throwing out" poor questions. Give full credit instead Otherwise, exposure to career expectations was very good.

---

Co-op program was a waste because I was not put into my field and I worked on computers at Sperry. I'm being trained now on the job. I could have been further ahead than I am now.

---

Maybe offer a bachelor degree program in the facility besides the AA program. A program where you can speak one-to-one and face-to-face with an instructor.

---

Overall a good experience. No real suggestions. Thank you.

---

I was impressed how you were able to let me substitute classes that would transfer to [four-year institution] for other classes toward my degree. This helped me out. I found it frustrating that my advisor couldn't help me more to know what would transfer to [four-year institution]. It would've been nice if he could have helped me to take classes that would transfer here. It's also frustrating how many credits are lost by transferring because PVCC doesn't have more classes that transfer here as classes I need. The low number of computers that we were allowed to use e-mail on was frustrating.

---

PVCC helped me to become a wonderful, caring, and knowledgeable nurse. Without the helpful advice from PVCC Nursing Program instructors, I would not be where I am today! Even before I became a part of the nursing program, I learned *so* much from all of my instructors. Attending PVCC was one of my best decisions I have ever made.

---

I enjoyed the offerings, freedom, quality of material, instruction, and faculty. I had a very bad experience with co-op and with career placement. I did much better directly through Piedmont Works at the VEC building and with [PVCC Faculty member].

---

PVCC needs to change a few of the first year courses to emphasize on architecture instead of mechanical drawing. Also, get ride of Auto Arch. It's not used in the field and the two semesters could be spent going into more detail drawings. Please call if you would like more info.

---

PVCC did very little to prepare me for the workload at [four-year institution]. [Four-year institution] focuses on the application of the knowledge which I do not feel was important at PVCC. I had no idea how to study for an application test and still trying to figure it out. Because of the lack of preparation I received, my grades have suffered. My GPA has gone from a 3.4 to a 2.4.

---

Overall, very happy with PVCC.

NSG program's grading scale should be consistent with other degree programs (e.g., 90-100 should be an 'A' vs. 92-100); or NSG clinical prep/wcp should count for a certain percentage of overall theory grade.

---

As an older, returning student, I was happy to find such acceptance, regardless of age, to the college environment. It was a great experience for me and personally very rewarding.

---

More honors courses offered; more areas to study in; better specific counseling and knowledgeable counselors (I was fortunate. [PVCC Faculty member] helped me throughout my PVCC semesters. Others aren't as fortunate); maybe better times to offer classes (especially for 102 classes; e.g., mainly only night classes offered for part two classes); better learning peripherals in the classrooms are needed. Overall, I really like my teachers and will value their instruction always. I'm very grateful to PVCC. Thank you.

---

Everything I learned at PVCC prepared me academically and personally to continue my education in the Radiography Program at [four-year institution]. I am at the top of my class, both clinically and academically, and I feel I was much more prepared than the other students without previous college. Thank you so much!

---

Overall the years I attended PVCC were enjoyable. Had some great professors and took some classes that exposed me to some culture that I had not been exposed to before, such as art and music. Some classes were very hard (math) but I loved the experience and actually learned a lot.

---

I enjoyed many things about PVCC and its courses. I was, however, very frustrated that I had to apply to the nursing program three times before being accepted. In that time I took several courses that one years here required and the next year something different was required. I spent time and money on some classes I didn't need. I realize curriculums change, but one year several social sciences were required and after lots of money, I found out the next year they weren't.

---

I have a student job at [four-year institution].

Please rethink your engineering program. I was not prepared for the horrific workload and extreme brilliance and competitiveness that awaited me.

---

I found my PVCC experience to be most gratifying. The nursing program provided the exact curriculum I was seeking and was set up in such a way that I could fulfill the other roles in my life (father, work, husband). The academic advisors were helpful in providing suggestions on how to attain my goals and complete my prerequisites before entering the nursing program.

---

I am very happy with the quality of education received at Piedmont. In comparison to the school I am attending now, Piedmont's registration sources, counseling/advising, course availability, and library are much better. It was a wise decision to begin my education at Piedmont.

---

PVCC is supposed to work very closely with [four-year institution]; however, [four-year institution] is not a liberal arts school. [Four-year institution] focuses on the sciences. PVCC is *NOT* a science friendly school. Most higher level (200s) science/math classes are offered at very inconvenient times and for those pursuing science degrees, which requires classes both in the morning and at night, it makes it impossible to work enough to support oneself and go to classes. Reorganization of the entire class schedule needs to be done!!!

---

I am very glad PVCC decided to recognize LPN education for placement in the R.N. program. Thanks to all the instructors in the nursing programs, all of them are excellent.

---

I took a lot of night classes and found your part-time teachers to be more friendly and helpful than the full-time teachers. E.g., [Adjunct Faculty members] were the two best all around teachers I have ever had. Why is it like that? And [PVCC A&R Staff member] has also been *extremely* nice and helpful to me!!

---

I liked it. The parking lot could use a few more lights—and the path to trailers! The library needs longer hours.

---

I cannot express how important it is for current PVCC students to be familiar with A.P.A. format. In my two years at PVCC I was never required to write in A.P.A. Thesis the largest obstacle I have had to overcome. *Please* ask instructors to apply A.P.A. when applicable.

---

I personally encountered the problem in my job search—majority of local employers still require some experience in the Lotus software and PVCC has quit offering that course. Also quickbooks and dictation seem to be two other high demand skills/experience/experience required with a great deal of employers in the position of administration which I have been seeking for almost a year now.

---

Before entering the nursing program, I found the whole general registration process to be very frustrating and time consuming. I would wait in line to register and/or see a counselor and be shuffled to another person, or told to come back later (this happened several times), making me feel that my time was less important. This was not an issue after getting into the actual nursing program.

---

I enjoyed the quality of instruction in my classes and the interest most of the instructors took in helping each student realize his/her potential. I found the honors program especially helpful in encouraging critical thinking and academic achievement.

---

One of the biggest problems at PVCC is the computing lab availability. There were hundreds of computers sitting idle, while students were crammed together to use just a few. Also, many times those computers were occupied and no others were available. Aside from that, the professors were highly qualified, the Learning Center was an excellent help, and the counselors were very helpful.

---

The grading system (not to allow A-, B+, B-, etc.) was a bit discouraging.

---

It was wonderful to work with the faculty.

---

I am particularly disconcerted with the parking situation at PVCC. The few spaces that students have (students who also work and so have little time to hunt for parking spaces are many times co-opted by special interest groups having no relation to student activities, such as voting day, often with fines to students who would use them. This is unconscionable and must stop.

---

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I was incorrectly advised as to what courses I need to take when I enrolled in PVCC and my faculty advisor never notices this error. I could have graduated much earlier had I known I only needed several more credits to graduate. The [PVCC Student Services staff member] did finally let me know the correct courses to take.

The faculty at PVCC is outstanding and very caring toward their students.

---

In general, I was very satisfied with PVCC's services and curriculum. One area I felt needed improvement was the necessity for all students to have a counselor sign/okay the registration form. As a graduate, I registered for a course in fall '98 and was required to have a counselor's signature on my registration form. This practice was unnecessary and a waste of my time as well as that of the counselor's. A first year student benefits from this practice—not a graduate.

---

Piedmont was the key that unlocked the door to my future. I enjoyed every aspect at the college, but the staff and faculty were unsurpassed. You all helped my dreams come true. Thanks.

---

Everything seems fine!

---

Get student loan privileges back.

---

I am currently enrolled at [four-year institution] and also work as a research assistant. I am graduating with a BBA in accounting in May of 1999. In October of 1999 I will be starting my career with the accounting firm [name of firm]. My experience with accounting classes is mixed. My ACTG 241 professor was excellent!!! My ACTG 242 professor knew the material but was unable to present this information in a logical manner. I would be happy to discuss this or any other aspect of my experience at PVCC.

---

In regards to curriculum, it needs to be more related to what people want to major in at particular schools. For example, Psych majors need statistics so it would be helpful to know and maybe take at PVCC.

---

I miss PVCC's atmosphere. At [four-year institution] I feel a longing for PVCC and the comfortable and homelike environment there. I feel I learned a lot at PVCC and recommend PVCC to any student.

---

My degree will help me in searching for a better job with higher income. Some of the secretary classes need to be offered at night.


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Sorry about the employer survey, but my supervisors do not do surveys.

---

[PVCC counselor] was most helpful to me at PVCC as both an academic and transfer advisor. Her salary should be doubled immediately.

---

The faculty at PVCC was very helpful throughout my attendance at the college. I have had problems forming relationships with teachers at my current school. My favorite teacher still works at PVCC [PVCC Faculty member] and if he's smart he'll stay and help future students like myself.

---

Overall, I enjoyed my PVCC educational experience but I do have a few comments that the college should consider. All of the required degree program courses should offer at least one class during the day because not all students want night classes. The night classes are too long and the classes need to be changed to twice a week. The problems I have found with night classes are after 8 p.m. I comprehend less of the material being taught and sometimes the professor's lecture is not presented clearly because they may be too tired after a long, busy day. Also the 7-10 p.m. classes are too late for students who live in surrounding counties that have to drive one hour or more home on back country roads. Personally, I feel tired and unsafe during my hour drive home late at night.